

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A computer peripheral device comprising:
- 10 circuitry to perform a computer peripheral function;
- Universal Serial Bus (USB) cable that provides a connection to a computer; and
- 15 USB/IR (infrared) transceiver operably coupled to the USB cable, wherein at least one of the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver is actively coupled to the computer via the USB cable.
- 20 2. The computer peripheral device of claim 1, wherein the circuitry further comprises being implemented to perform at least one of: a mouse function, a keyboard function, a portable printer function, a microphone function, hand scanner function, and a video camera function.
- 25 3. The computer peripheral device of claim 1 further comprises switching circuitry that is operable to switch between the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver based on a selection input, wherein the switching circuitry actively couples either the circuitry or the USB/IR transceiver to the computer.
- 30 4. The computer peripheral device of claim 1 further comprises a USB hub operably coupled to the circuitry, the USB cable, and the USB/IR transceiver, wherein the USB hub enables both the circuitry and the USB/IR transceiver to be actively coupled to the computer.
5. The computer peripheral device of claim 4 further comprises at least one USB port operably coupled to the USB hub.

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7. A computer peripheral device comprising:
- circuitry to perform a computer peripheral function;
- 5 a cable that provides a connection to a computer; and
- infrared transceiver operably coupled to the cable, wherein at least one of the circuitry and the infrared transceiver is actively coupled to the computer via the cable.
- 10 8. The computer peripheral device of claim 7, wherein the circuitry further comprises being implemented to perform at least one of: a mouse function, a keyboard function, a portable printer function, a microphone function, hand scanner function, and a video camera function.
- 15 9. The computer peripheral device of claim 7 further comprises switching circuitry that is operable to switch between the circuitry and the infrared transceiver based on a selection input, wherein the switching circuitry actively couples either the circuitry or the infrared transceiver to the computer.
- 20 10. The computer peripheral device of claim 7, wherein the cable further comprises a pair of cables, wherein one of the pair of cables is coupled to the circuitry and another of the pair of cables is coupled to the infrared transceiver.